

From: Jeremy Richter
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/18/01 6:21pm
Subject: Very Upset Citizen

As a citizen of the United States who believes in the spirit of competition, I am deeply concerned about the steps being taken to settle the Microsoft Antitrust case. I am a Macintosh user and like the choices that are provided to me using Apple's operating system. But with Microsoft's recent suggestion that a fair settlement could be reached by donating software to underprivileged schools, I am outraged. This is such an obvious ploy to gain additional customers that I can't believe the government is not objecting to it. Didn't they break the law? How does donating software to schools remedy the monopoly stranglehold they have in the PC industry? Allowing Microsoft to donate a billion dollars worth of software completely wipes out any competition. How can Apple and other companies compete with Microsoft in the education market if Microsoft's software will be for free? This isn't a remedy; it's simply creating an even bigger beast that will further destroy competition.

Make Microsoft donate billions in cash for its previous violations and have an independent organization manage how the money is dispersed. Currently, Microsoft has over \$36 billion dollars in cash, so I'm pretty sure a few billion would not hurt them in the long run. This would be the right thing to do. In addition, Microsoft should be required to provide its popular Office Suite to both the Macintosh and Linux platforms indefinitely (and they should be released at the same time as the Windows versions and have the same features).

I am confident that most consumers believe preserving competition is worth having to spend a little more time and money to implement the right remedy for Microsoft's wrongdoings.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely,

Jeremy Richter